BOROUGH OF REWDLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

and Public Health Inspector

for

1966

BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector

for

1966

The Telford Press Ltd., Kidderminster 3307

BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

1966

Mayor:

Councillor Mrs. N. C. ANSON

Chairman of Health Committee:

Councillor A. M. W. FORBES

Health Committee:

Alderman Mrs. D. L. LAWRENCE
Alderman E. FINCH
Alderman R. W. COLES
Councillor J. ROSE
Councillor J. H. GARBETT
Councillor L. G. WHITE
Councillor W. CROSS
Councillor L. M. KEY
Councillor Mrs. J. E. RICE
Councillor R. S. MERCHILL

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

Mr. G. J. EASTBURY, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
(Mr. Eastbury terminated his post on 31st December, 1966)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

HEALTH COMMITTEE

BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1966.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections:—

"A" Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

"B" General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

"C" Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

"D" Housing.

"E" Inspection and Supervision of Food.

"F" Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

SECTION "A"

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	3,681
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1966)	5,600
Population (Census 1961)	5,041
Estimated number of inhabited houses and self-contained flats (end of 1966)	1,956
Rateable Value	£106,435
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£656

Industry within the Borough is on a small scale, the area being mainly residential. The principal source of local employment is a factory processing Animal Feeding Stuffs, Seeds, Fertilisers, etc.

Other sources of employment, besides Agricultural, include a Saw Mill, and remaining from the traditional Bewdley Industries, a Brass Foundry, Rope Works and Leather Works.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

Live Births

	1966			1965		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	115	46	69	105	62	43
Illegitimate ...	5	3	2	4	3	1
	120	49	71	109	65	44

The Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Borough was: 1966, 21.4 (1965, 21.6).

The Live Birth Rate for England and Wales was: 1966, 17.7 (1965, 18.0).

Still Births

	1966			1965		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	1	–	1	2	1	1
Illegitimate ...	1	–	1	–	–	–
	2	–	2	2	1	1

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was: 1966, 16.4 (1965, 18.34).

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births for England and Wales was: 1966, 15.4.

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population in the Borough was: 1966, 0.35 (1965, 0.39).

Deaths

1966			1965		
Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
76	40	36	66	32	34

The Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was: 1966, 13.54 (1965, 12.0).

The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales was: 1966, 11.7 (1965, 11.4).

Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	1966			1965		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	4	1	3	3	–	3
Illegitimate ...	–	–	–	–	–	–
	4	1	3	3	–	3

The Infant Mortality rate was: 1966, 33.3 (1965, 26.9).

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales was: 1966, 19.0 (1965, 10.0).

Causes of Death

Ref. No.		Male	Female
3.	Syphilitic Disease	–	1
11, 13, 14.	Cancer	13	9
15.	Leukaemia	–	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	4	4
18, 20, 21.	Heart Disease	13	12
23.	Pneumonia	5	1
24.	Bronchitis	2	1
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System...	–	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	–	1
31.	Congenital Malformations	1	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	–	3
34.	All Other Accidents	2	1
	TOTAL	40	36

There were no deaths during the year from Diphtheria, Measles or Whooping Cough.

SECTION "B"

General Provision of Health Services for the Area Hospitals

The following hospitals administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board are available:—

1. The Kidderminster General Hospital for general medical and surgical cases.
2. The Kidderminster General Hospital, Bewdley Road.
3. The Hayley Green Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
4. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport.
5. The Croft Maternity Home.

Ambulance Service

This is provided by the Worcestershire County Council as Local Health Authority.

A system of radio control, based on Worcester, deals with all applications, including emergency calls. At the same time the station at Kidderminster gives a 24-hour service.

Clinics

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly with a doctor in attendance monthly, when Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus immunisation and vaccination are carried out, and Oral poliomyelitis vaccine are administered.

Tuberculosis

(1) Treatment — A dispensary is held thrice weekly at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

(2) Prevention and After-Care — Preventative measures of this disease are the responsibility of the County Council and are carried out under the direction of the County Medical Officer.

An After-Care Sub-Committee administers this service in the district in conjunction with other districts in the Kidderminster Divisional Area.

Home Nursing and Health Visiting

There are two District Nurses available in the Borough, one each for Bewdley and Wribbenhall. There is also one whole-time Health Visitor.

Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948.

Domestic Help Service

The Home Help Service continues to be administered by the Women's Voluntary Service. At the end of the year 2 full-time and 10 part-time home helps were employed, and 48 chronic and 10 other cases received attention.

SECTION "C"

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area

Water Supply

The drinking water to the Borough is supplied by the North-West Worcestershire Water Board. Water samples for bacteriological analysis are taken by both the Public Health Inspector and the Water Board.

Drainage

The rapid and sudden development which came to Bewdley, together with an increased standard of effluent discharge required by the River Board, outlined the fact that the existing drainage system was no longer suitable or sufficient. Being aware of these shortcomings the Council commissioned Messrs. John Dosser and Associates to prepare reports on the sewerage systems of the town.

Their reports, produced in 1962 and 1963, concluded that (a) since storm water surcharged sewers at times of heavy rainfall, then if a separate system was adopted, much of the existing drainage would be adequate, (b) if a separate system was installed then all the storm water would be discharged to the river and would not therefore have to be treated at the Sewage Works at Kidderminster.

The year 1966 saw a start to this very extensive, costly, but very necessary programme. By the end of the year work was well advanced as the construction of the Sewage Works and the contractors had commenced the task of separating the combined foul and storm water sewers.

SECTION "D"

Housing

Slum Clearance

Only one Closing Order was made during the year but a Housing Survey showed that a further 64 houses and 11 riverside chalets were in a very sub-standard condition and warranted Housing Act action at a very early date. These properties are generally in three groups, the Lax Lane area, the Winbrook/Wyre Hill area and the chalets on Riverside North, none of the latter appearing to have adequate drainage facilities.

New Accommodation

105 dwellings were completed by private enterprise and 16 by the Local Authority.

Caravan Sites

The four caravan sites, which together house a total of 474 caravans, continued to be well run and maintained.

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Bacteriological examinations of samples taken from producers and manufacturers, and all chemical examinations of food, milk and water are carried out by the Worcestershire County Council Laboratory. Bacteriological examination of consumer samples of milk, water and ice-cream are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory at the Worcester Royal Infirmary, in addition to the routine clinical pathology.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

Meat Inspection

Meat Inspection Services and general supervision of Food Premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year (see Public Health Inspector's Report).

SECTION "F"

Prevalescence of and Control over Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria Immunisation	
Primary Injections	70
Reinforcing Injections	148
Smallpox Vaccination	
Number Vaccinated	60
Number Re-Vaccinated	18
B.C.G. Vaccination	
Number Invited	96
Number Accepted	82
B.C.G. Negative	76
Positive	4

Notifications

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table:—

Disease	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths Total
Scarlet Fever	5	–	–
Measles	82	–	–
Lobar Pneumonia	1	–	–

Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1 ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5 ...	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
10 ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15 ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
20 ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25 ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
35 ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
45 ...	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
55 ...	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
65 and over	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	1
	3		nil		1		1	

A total number of 23 T.B. cases on the Borough Register at December 31st, 1966, were as follows:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
18	3	1	1

CONCLUSION

I should like to thank the Mayor, members of the Council and the Council's Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Year 1966

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

HOUSING

As reported by the Medical Officer of Health, official representations were made in regard to two sub-standard dwellings within the Borough.

Details of housing inspections are contained in the summary of work of the department.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are 81 food shops and other food-preparation premises within the district. The majority of these premises were visited at least once during the year and others more frequently as required.

Meat Inspection

Four Slaughtermen's Licences were renewed during the year. Two Slaughterhouses were re-licensed in July.

A total number of 331 visits made to food premises during the year included visits made to slaughterhouses for meat inspection purposes. These inspections are carried out at the time of slaughtering whenever possible or as soon as practicable afterwards.

Slaughterhouses Report

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations (Appointed Day) (No. 2) Order, 1962, and the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations (Appointed Day) (No. 2) Order, 1962.

The two Slaughterhouses licensed within the District complied with the requirements of these Orders and were re-licensed during the year.

The table set out below indicates the number of carcases inspected as against the number slaughtered.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	102	Nil	8	1991	465
Number Inspected	102	Nil	8	1991	465
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	17	Nil	Nil	38	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	16.66	Nil	Nil	1.91	5.38
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcase condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.15

Condemned Food

The total quantity of meat and offal condemned at slaughterhouses during the year amounted to 3 cwts. 4 lbs.

Method of disposal of condemned food is by incineration, except in the case of meat and offal at slaughterhouses. This is stained green, as recommended, and collection made by authorised dealers.

Factories Act, 1961

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises (1)	Number of: No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	23	23	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	26	23	1	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases"):

Particulars (1)	Number of Cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred: To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	–	–	–	–	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	–	–	–	–	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	–	–	–	–	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	–	–	–	–	Nil
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) ...	–	–	–	–	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	–	–	–	–	Nil
(a) Insufficient ...	–	–	–	–	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	–	–	–	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	–	–	–	–	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	–	–	–	–	Nil
Total ...	1	–	–	–	Nil

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Since this Act came into force 42 premises have been registered with the Local Authority. It has not been possible to carry out detailed inspections of all the premises but 36 visits have been made this year.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

Thirty-seven samples of milk, which were on sale within the Borough, were taken by the Food and Drugs Authority (Worcestershire County Council) during the year. Analysis results were as follows:—

Phosphatse Test			Methylene Blue Test		
Pass	Fail	Void	Pass	Fail	Void
5	–	–	30	2	–

Ice-Cream

Twenty-nine retailers are registered for the sale of Ice-Cream, many of whom deal only in pre-packed products.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the following infestations have been dealt with in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

Properties visited following notification	36
Properties visited other than following notification ...	160
Total visits ...	196
Number of premises infested by rats	119
Number of premises infested by mice	3

These figures are taken from the annual return as required by the Ministry and do not indicate the actual number of treatments carried out. The Corporation tip, for example, requires fortnightly attention at least, but is shown only once in this return.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF DEPARTMENT

A total number of 1,322 visits were distributed as follows:—

Housing defects, overcrowding, etc.	147
Houses let-in-lodgings	15
Food Premises (including meat inspections)	331
Refuse Collections	178
Drains and Sanitary Fittings	64
Water Sampling	21
Rodent Control	54
Caravan Sites	30
Factories	23
O.S. and R.	36
Miscellaneous	185
Housing Survey	194
N.W.W.	44
	1,322
Rodent Treatments	196
Total ...	1,518

I am,

Your obedient servant,

GRAHAM EASTBURY,

Public Health Inspector.